

2023 - 2024 Edition Eight (23.02.2024)



Term Four

Greetings – This is just a quick Newsletter to say many thanks for the warm welcome that I have received from many of you on the playground, to introduce myself and to look forward to some of the dates for the exciting term that has just started.

I know it was a surprise to many of you that an Interim Headteacher is in school (and I can assure you it was to me too), but it's not a negative thing. The job of an Interim Head is to maintain all the good things that schools do, and to provide stability for the children; to allow them to get on with the job at hand, which is learning.

This is what I have done in the other interim roles I have undertaken, and it has worked well. Although all schools are different, there are many elements that are shared, and I have been in schools now for thirty years, with twenty-two of them as headteacher. The most pleasing comment that I have received in my career (so far) came from Ofsted, and it was that my last school was a 'Joyful place'. I can see that Priestley children are supported by some very caring staff, families and governors; and I will offer my full support for as long as I am part of the team.

I will usually be on the playground at drop-off and collection, so please do come and say hello or ask any questions, if you see me.

Reminder – World Book Day – Thursday 7 March 2024

World Book Day at Priestley will take place on Thursday, 7 March; it's a fun day on which we try to encourage everyone to be a reader and love books.

This year, we will be sharing favourite bedtime books (and bedtime stories) whilst dressed in pyjamas. Children may wish to bring their favourite bedtime book to share with a friend. Pyjamas, dressing gowns and snugglies are welcome. Don't forget, use the link below to access World Book Day's World of Stories audiobooks for FREE. Check out the brand-new set of audiobooks which are available until Sunday, 31 March. <https://www.worldbookday.com/world-of-stories/>

Coming Soon – Red Nose Day – Friday 15 March 2024

Miss Lawrence has drafted a letter to come to you next week telling you about activities the children to enjoy, and that will help raise money for Comic Relief, which this year will be on Friday, 15 March. We are asking the children to wear something red to school, make a Lego model at home, and take a picture sending it to us using Tapestry/Seesaw... watch this space.

Coming Soon – Parents Evenings – Tuesday 19 and Thursday 21 March 2024

You will be receiving communication next week via Teachers to Parents (T2P) about the Parent/Teacher meetings which happen just before Easter. You will be able to book a slot (of 10 minutes) through T2P in the usual ways – email or text. Full information coming next week.

Return of Mr Gibbens to Mallard Class and Priestley

I am delighted to be able to tell you that Mr Gibbens should be making a phased return to school, starting with mornings at the beginning of next week.

Trips/Activities for this Term

Thursday, 14 March - EYFS Visit to Roves Farm.

Tuesday, 19 March - Year 1 and 2 Pirate Day in school.

Thursday, 14 March - Year 3 and 4 Greek Day in school.

Monday, 26 February - Year 5 and 6 Visit to the Steam Museum in Swindon.

We all hope you have a great weekend.

Luke Coles

Interim Headteacher